

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Withdrawn) A current collector, for location between an electrode and a ribbed separator of a fuel cell having a plurality of separators, a plurality of electrodes, and a means of supplying reactants between each electrode and separator comprising:
a plurality of flat wires having a planar surface contactable with an electrode,
said plurality of flat wires having an opposing planar surface contactable with a ribbed separator.
2. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
each flat wire is parallel to adjacent flat wires.
3. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are not parallel to ribs of said ribbed separator.
4. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are bonded to said electrode with an adhesive.
5. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires may or may not be coincident with opposing flat wires of adjacent fuel cells.
6. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires provides for lateral fluid communication between adjacent flow ribs of said separator.

7. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires provide support to the extent of their lengths and widths to the electrode.

8. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are continuously and simultaneously slit from sheet metal.

9. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 1 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires possess a pitch and width alterable to suppress or enhance the fuel cell electrochemical reaction.

10. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
each flat wire is parallel to adjacent flat wires.

11. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are not parallel to ribs of said ribbed separator.

12. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are coincident or are not coincident with flat wires of adjacent fuel cells.

13. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires provide support to the extent of their lengths and widths to the electrode.

14. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires are continuously and simultaneously slit from sheet metal.

15. (Withdrawn) A current collector in accordance with claim 6 wherein:
said plurality of flat wires possess a pitch and width configured to suppress or enhance the
fuel cell electrochemical reaction.

16. (Withdrawn) A subassembly for use with a fuel cell comprising
a cathode,
a plurality of cathode current collectors bonded to the cathode with an adhesive,
an anode,
a plurality of anode current collectors bonded to the anode with an adhesive, and
a separator contacting the plurality of cathode current collectors and the plurality of
anode current collectors.

17. (Withdrawn) The subassembly of claim 16 wherein the cathode current collectors
comprise flat wires.

18. (Withdrawn) The subassembly of claim 16 wherein the anode current collectors
comprise flat wires.

19. (Withdrawn) The subassembly of claim 16 wherein the separator comprises ribs
which form flow fields.

20. (Withdrawn) The subassembly of claim 16 including flow paths for lateral fluid
communication between adjacent ribs.

21. (Withdrawn) A subassembly for use with a fuel cell comprising
a cathode,
a plurality of cathode current collectors contacting the cathode,
an anode,
a plurality of anode current collectors contacting the anode, and

a separator including adjacent ribs contacting the plurality of cathode current collectors and providing for lateral fluid communication between the adjacent ribs contacting the plurality of cathode current collectors and including adjacent ribs contacting the plurality of anode current collectors and providing for lateral fluid communication between the adjacent ribs contacting the plurality of anode current collectors.

22. (Withdrawn) The subassembly of claim 21 wherein the cathode current collectors comprise flat wires.

23. (Withdrawn) The subassembly of claim 21 wherein the anode current collectors comprise flat wires.

24. (Withdrawn) A fuel cell stack comprising a plurality of subassemblies, each subassembly comprising
a cathode,
a plurality of cathode current collectors bonded to the cathode with an adhesive,
an anode,
a plurality of anode current collectors bonded to the anode with an adhesive, and
a separator contacting the plurality of cathode current collectors and the plurality of anode current collectors, and
a plurality of electrolyte holding members disposed between the subassemblies.

25. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell stack of claim 24 wherein the cathode current collectors comprise flat wires.

26. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell stack of claim 24 wherein the anode current collectors comprise flat wires.

27. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell stack of claim 24 wherein the separator comprises ribs which form flow fields.

28. (Withdrawn) The fuel cell stack of claim 24 including flow paths for lateral fluid communication between adjacent ribs.

29. (Currently Amended) A subassembly for use with a fuel cell comprising
a cathode,
a plurality of cathode current collectors contacting the cathode,
an anode,
a plurality of anode current collectors contacting the anode, and
a separator contacting the plurality of cathode current collectors and the plurality of anode current collectors;
wherein at least one of the plurality of cathode current collectors and the plurality of anode current collectors comprises flat wires.

30. (Currently Amended) The subassembly of claim [16] 29 wherein the cathode current collectors comprise flat wires.

31. (Currently Amended) The subassembly of claim [16] 29 wherein the anode current collectors comprise flat wires.

32. (Currently Amended) The subassembly of claim [16] 29 wherein the separator comprises ribs which form flow fields.

[32] 33. (Currently Amended) The subassembly of claim [16] 29 including flow paths for lateral fluid communication between adjacent ribs.

34. (Currently Amended) A fuel cell stack comprising a plurality of subassemblies, each subassembly comprising
a cathode,
a plurality of cathode current collectors contacting the cathode,
an anode,

a plurality of anode current collectors contacting the anode, [and]
a separator contacting the plurality of cathode current collectors and the plurality of anode current collectors, and
a plurality of electrolyte holding members disposed between the subassemblies;
wherein at least one of the plurality of cathode current collectors and the plurality of anode current collectors comprises flat wires.

35. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack of claim [24] 34 wherein the cathode current collectors comprise flat wires.

36. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack of claim [24] 34 wherein the anode current collectors comprise flat wires.

37. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack of claim [24] 34 wherein the separator comprises ribs which form flow fields.

38. (Currently Amended) The fuel cell stack of claim [24] 34 including flow paths for lateral fluid communication between adjacent ribs.